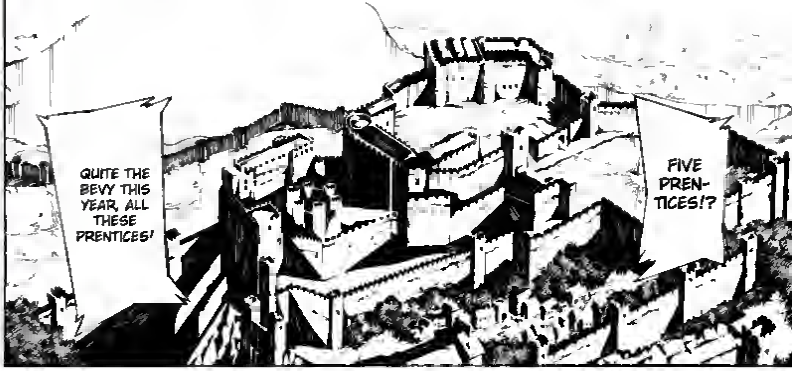
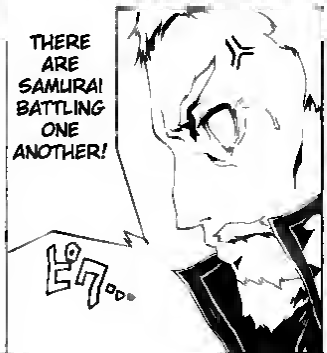
第2話
Bonds of comrades


QUITE THE BEVY THIS YEAR, ALL THESE PRENTICES!
FIVE PREN-TICES!?

INDEED WE'RE TO MEET THEM SHORTLY

?
HOY! SOMETHING CURIOUS IS HAPPENING OVER THAT WAY!


THERE ARE SAMURAI BATTLING ONE ANOTHER!
ヒソ…

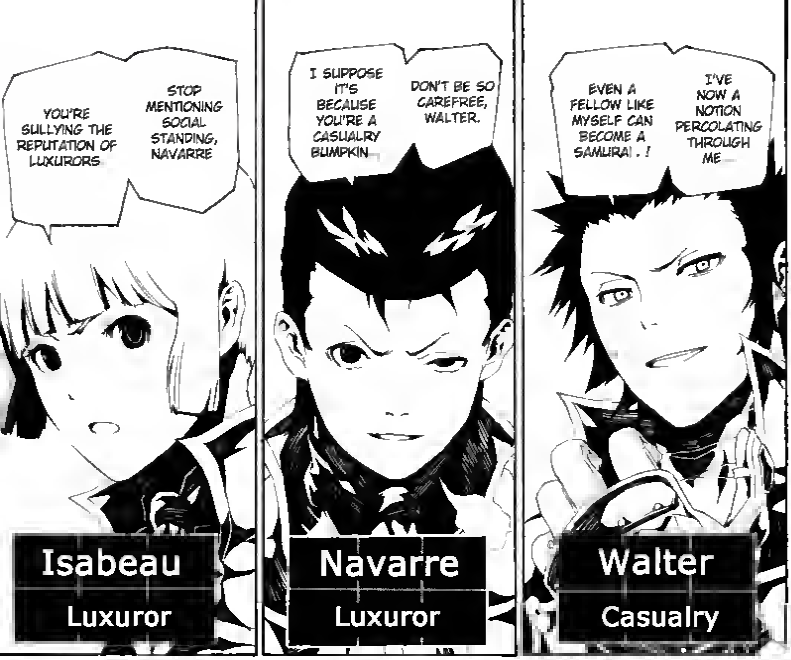
I HOPE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THEM ARE SPIRITED…

WHAT ARE THOSE SAMURAI...?
HOY!
QUITE THE SWORD-PLAY WITH THESE TWO, THOUGH, NO?
I CANNOT HELP BUT STARE...
...DON'T ASSUME THAT I'M THE SAME AS I WAS 10 YEARS AGO
THAT WOULD BE WHAT I SAY

THIS WILL END IT!

UGH...
...STRONG AS EVER, ASUMA.
THOSE TWO WERE AMAZING!
WHAT AM I SAYING...? IT WAS AN AMAZING MATCH!
わあああ
.....
HOY, JONATH-

Aek.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CASTLE STREETS ...?
YOU TWO...
PERSONAL VENDETTAS ARE UNBECOMING OF SAMURAI.
REFLECT ON YOUR CONDUCT.
MY APOLOGIES
I WAS GOADED INTO DUELLING HIM
OH,
ARE YOU ALL THE REMAINING PRENTICES AND OUR INSTRUCTOR?
DAMN IT I HOPE THE OTHER THREE ARE FORTHRIGHT


YOU'RE SULLYING THE REPUTATION OF LUXURORS
STOP MENTIONING SOCIAL STANDING, NAVARRE
Isabeau
Luxuror
I SUPPOSE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A CASUALRY BUMPKIN
DON'T BE SO CAREFREE, WALTER.
Navarre
Luxuror
EVEN A FELLOW LIKE MYSELF CAN BECOME A SAMURAI . !
I'VE NOW A NOTION PERCOLATING THROUGH ME
Walter
Casualry

How many times do I have to correct you before you remember!?
IT'S NAVARRE, MY NAME IS NAVARRE!
キミィ!!
YES YOU DO MAKE A BAD IMPRESSION, Naparm.

ENOUGH!
QUIET YOUR-SELVES!
That was completely off! You're doing this on purpose!
Chaka Khan.
Don't be cross with me.
LIVELY...?
...THEY'RE SOMEWHAT, WELL...
THESE ARE THE PRENTICE SAMURAI THAT JOINED AT THE SAME TIME AS I DID?

LET US COME STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.
...BE SILENT.
YOU WILL THEN UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT
STARTING IMMEDIATELY. YOU LOT WILL UNDERGO A PRACTICAL TRAINING EXERCISE
I AM THE COMMANDER OF THE SAMURAI, HOPE.
OF THE SAMURAI...!
THE TRUE MISSION
OUR TRUE MISSION...?
...?

Samurai Resting Area: K's Bar
Mikado Castle Grounds
A round after practicals hits the spot!
Haaaaah!
K
bar proprietor
UNCOMMON TO SEE PEOPLE AS DRUNK AS THAT, THOUGH.
INTOXICATED BY THE ATMOSPHERE, NO DOUBT.
THAT'S RIGHT...
ARE WE?
WE'RE NOT DRINKING ALCOHOL,
We are minors
グビグビ
グビグビ
Y-you'd best let go of me, Walter!
It's fine, we're friends!
Navarral

MAKING ENEMIES OUT OF MYSTERIOUS CREATURES CALLED DEMONS...
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT WAS A SAMURAI'S TRUE MISSION?
AND THAT WAS QUITE THE SURPRISE, JONATHAN!
Wagh!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING WALTER?
UNLIKE YOU, JONATHAN AND ASUMA
FOUGHT THE DEMONS WITHOUT HESITATION, DIDN'T THEY?
I WAS QUITE SHOCKED BY THEM WALTER
..YES, THAT'S TRUE. YOU LITERALLY COULDN'T STAND FOR IT
AAAGH!
NOOO!
I'VE KNOWN OF DEMONS SINCE I WAS A CHILD...
BUT, I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
QUITE BRAVE
WE'LL HAVE TO FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE
AH, NO...

HOW ABOUT YOU JONATHAN?
I DISLIKED THE IDEA OF INHERITING MY FAMILY'S TRADE OUT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE
I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO BECOME A SAMURAI!
AT ANY RATE,
I RATHER WANTED A STIMULATING OCCUPATION LIKE THIS ONE
WALTER,
I, TOO,
FEEL IT IS AN HONOR THAT I WAS ABLE TO BECOME A SAMURAI
A SAMURAI'S DUTY IS TO PROTECT
OUR COUNTRY AND THE PEACE OF ITS PEOPLE
AT FIRST, IT WAS MERELY A CHILDHOOD YEARNING OF MINE...
BUT NOW IT IS NOT JUST THAT.

I WILL ALWAYS
AND NO MATTER WHAT PATH I FIND MYSELF ON,
ATTEMPT TO PRESERVE THIS PEACE...!
OH, OH, THAT MAKES QUITE THE IMPRESSION—!
は...
I forgot myself for a moment there... Hahahaha!
はは...
N-no, pardon me!

AND STILL YOU'RE NOT ANY STRONGER.
YOU JUST BOAST.
ASUMA ?
HUH? WAI-
THE THINGS YOU SPOKE OF...
YOU STILL CAN'T PROTECT THEM,
DON'T SPEAK OF "PEACE,"
JONATHAN !!
"KILL THE LOATHSOME DEMONS."
THAT SHOULD SUFFICE, SHOULDN'T IT?

WHAT YOU SAID TO ME JUST NOW ...!
I WILL NOT IGNORE
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING—
ASUMA
WE WERE ALL CHOSEN AT THE SAME TIME
HOW A MOMENT!
SO WE SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO BE CORDIAL TO EACH OTHER!
I'VE A GOOD IDEA!
ALL RIGHT... LISTEN, THEN
THEY DESPISE EACH OTHER, DON'T THEY...!?
THEY SEEMED TO BE ACQUAINTED PRIOR TO THIS, BUT,
WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THESE TWO ?
!

AHAHAHA HAHAHA!
COME NOW, WHAT'S THE MATTER!?
IS THAT ALL, DEMONS!?
HEHEH...
I COULD GET QUITE USED TO THIS...!

CURSE ME FOR DRUNKENLY GOING ALONG WITH THAT RIDICULOUS PROPOSAL...!
DAMN IT...! THAT PEASANT!
I'VE BEEN SURROUNDED!
HEE EEK!
ズルズルズルズル
HAVE A COMPETITION!
I'VE A GOOD IDEA!
LET THE FIVE OF US
A COMPETITION?
WELL THE AIM IS TO MAKE IT A GAME TO BUILD RAPPORT
SOUNDS FUN, NO?
WE'LL SNEAK INTO NARAKU NOW,
THE RULES ARE SIMPLE.
チャキ...
AND THE FELLOW WHO DISPATCHES THE MOST DEMONS WINS!
MARVELOUS, WALTER!
YOU QUESTION HOW MUCH MORE SUPERIOR LUXURORS ARE?
I'LL SHOW YOU THROUGH MY EFFORTS!
おほほほ

!!!
T-THIS CANNOT BE—
Is-
Isa-beau!
.....!
DO NOT TREAT THIS AS A GAME
JUST BECAUSE THOSE TWO FELLOWS ARE QUARRELING DOES NOT MEAN WE WILL LOSE THE WAGER!

I DIDN'T.
I HAD A GUT FEELING I'D FIND MORE DEMONS THROUGH THIS WAY.
SAY.
WHY DID YOU COME WITH ME?
……!
WHAT ...!?
WHAT WAS THAT?
HUNH!?
NO, YOU LEAVE.
FIND YOUR OWN SPOT!
I KNOW MY SWORDSMANSHIP ISN'T ANYWHERE NEAR YOURS,
BUT,
I'VE BEEN TRAINING, CHASING AFTER YOUR SHADOW THIS ENTIRE TIME...!
ASUMA
WHY DID YOU SAY THAT?
THAT I STILL COULDN'T DEFEND ANYTHING...?

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE CHANGED A BIT OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS.
...PERHAPS YOU'VE FORGOTTEN?
THE DAY WE CROSSED BLADES.
YOU SAID SOMETHING TO ME WHEN WE PARTED.
AND BACK THEN YOU SAID—
.....
...STILL AS TALKATIVE AS EVER, I SEE.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR HUMANS TO CHANGE A BIT.

I STILL HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN
WHAT YOU SAID TO ME THEN.
!
...THAT BEING SAID,

!!?
URGAAA AAAAAH!
KUNA?

GI IIII RGH!
KGH!
I CAN'T DISPATCH ALL OF THESE...!
WHAT IS THIS...?

!!
ISABEAU!
JONATHAN, ASUMA!
..HUH!?
...BUT I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN WEATHER THIS SHEER NUMBER OF DEMONS
THANK YOU!
EVEN WITH THE THREE OF US...

WHAT ARE THESE TWO?
THEY'RE BOTH IN TUNE WITH ONE ANOTHER...!
.....!
THIS IS—
I TRAINED, CHASING AFTER HIS SHADOW FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS...
SO THEN,
AM I ABLE TO MATCH HIS MOVEMENTS... BECAUSE OF THAT?

HEH.
THIS DOESN'T FEEL TOO BAD, NO...!
HOW CAN THIS BE? WEREN'T THEY WORST ENEMIES JUST A WHILE AGO!?
THIS FIGHTING STYLE...
IF I WERE TO DESCRIBE IT, IT WOULD BE...

LIKE
THEY
WERE

JONA-
THAN.
ASU...
!?
A-
AMAZING!
HEH...
VETERAN
COMRADES—
ASUMA...
YOU—
.....?
I SAID
THAT I DID.
NO.
I DID.
HM? WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
I GOT
MORE.
ASUMA.
I BELIEVE
I'VE
DISPATCHED
MORE OF
THEM.

WHAT WORMS...
THERE'S NO END TO THEM..!
AGAIN!?
GRA RGH!
MAZIO-DYNE!
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE APPRENTICES THIS YEAR
ARE TROUBLE-MAKERS, ALL...
ALL FIVE OF YOU, TOGETHER, MAKING AN INCURSION INTO NARAKU WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION...
!!?

...WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
THE COMMANDER...
HE'S BEING ASSISTED BY A DEMON...?
Vrr...
WHERE THE DEVIL IS THE EXIT!?
I'm looost!

Is he the commander's father?
That's foolish He's obviously his older brother
...He is neither